MARIE FRALEY MCCORMICK wearing the gown she designed and created.

Homemade wedding dress adds special touch

By Frances H. Paulette

It was a cold dreary day early last fall and the young woman was curled up on the middle of her bed in the college dorm at James Madison University. She was dreaming. Her wedding day was set for January and her thoughts were happy thoughts as she planned every detail of that special occasion.

Laura Marie Fraley was in her senior year at JMU and her forthcoming wedding to Leonard A. McCormick Jr. filled her every waking minute.

So much to plan, so much to do, but first of all she had to decide on the wedding gown. Just what would it be? Engrossed in thought she reached over and picked up an old manila envelope and began to sketch. Marie Fraley McCormick has been sewing since she was an eighth grader; not only does she sew but often designs her own things as well.

"So", she thought, "why not design my own gown?" After all she had looked at gowns at various stores, she had spent hours poring over gowns in pattern books and nothing was just what she wanted.... not quite right. So, she began to draw.

The bodice would have an empire waistline. The front of the bodice would feature tiny loops laced with satin ribbon. Chantilly lace would cover the brocade satin of which the gown would be fashioned. She would make her fingertip veil of the same Chantilly lace.

And so she sketched, until, on the old brown envelope a picture began to emerge..... an elegantly beautiful gown, just what she had always dreamed her wedding gown would be. It was truly HER gown, born of her desire to have something uniquely her own creation, designed and fashioned by her own hands to wear for that special man in her life.

Making her own pattern

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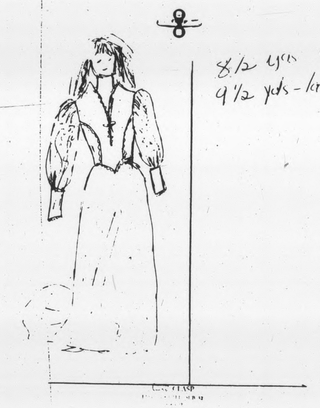

A BEAUTIFUL, ORIGINAL WEDDING GOWN had its beginning as a crude sketch on a used manila envelope.

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Photographs provide lasting memory of wedding day for bride and groom

By Frances H. Paulette

"Yes," she said, "I will," and then, excitedly, she began to plan her wedding.

Because your wedding is a time to 'have and hold', a most special time in your life, you'll want to remember every precious moment of this memorable day and you can....with wedding photographs.

A professional photographer is your assurance that this beautiful occasion will be captured for your enjoyment in the years to come, memories that last on and on.

From the engagement picture to the candid going away shots, your wedding memories will be in good hands with the services of a professional photographer.

"There is a new trend in engagement pictures," said one local photographer.

It is called the 'love portrait' and it pictures the couple together. In some instances they are pictured looking at rings, sometimes at each other. It makes for a truly meaningful portrait, but the kind of picture used as an engagement picture is really a matter of personal choice.

The photographer can do a better job is he has time to get to know the subject/subjects. The longer the couple and photographer have to get to know each other the more comfortable the couple will be during the picture taking session.

It is a good idea for the bride to plan to spend some time talking to the photographer before the portrait setting. He can help her decide on what look to achieve, casual, formal or something distinctly different. He can advise her on makeup, whether or not to wear glasses (if she does), and a number of other things that will make the actual setting a "fun time."

If a bride is tense, it shows in her face, and the photographer definitely wants to eliminate any tension when doing the wedding portrait.

"Not only do we want to give the couple good portraits but a delightful experience as well," said a local photographer.

Most photographers require a deposit when doing a wedding. This actually is a help to the couple if they have to watch their budget because whatever they pay

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Caterers 'make the cake'

By Frances H. Paulette

So, the date has been set; and you're looking forward to a beautiful wedding, complete with family, relatives from far and near and friends galore. It'll be a happy time.

An added assurance that everyone will have a happy time, including the mother of the bride is to engage the services of a caterer. Then, when the ceremony is over, everybody can celebrate, Mom included.

"Choose a caterer as soon as possible," is the advice of Mrs. June Chenault and Mrs. Edith Scruggs of J&E Wedding Boutique, local caterers. "Then decide how much money will be budgeted for catering.

Most caterers will give free estimates on the cost of after rehearsal parties, wedding receptions and other parties, and some caterers offer consultations in the home of the bride-elect. Other caterers will do flowers for the wedding and reception in addition to the food.

"It doesn't matter, whether it's large or small, we will caterer it," said W. E. "Lum" Edwards of Maude's Restaurant.

The time of day will greatly determine how much food will be needed per person, according to a local caterer.

Caterers often can provide linens to match or coordinate with the colors used in the wedding.

A caterer will need to see the facilities at the church or home in order to provide the best possible service.

Homemade dress adds special touch

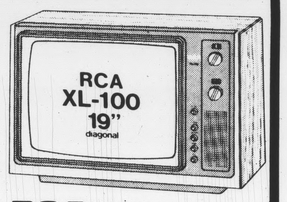
[Continued from page 4]

as she went, Marie began to cut the fabric. In much less time than one would imagine the dress began to take shape, and soon it was done.

When Marie walked down the aisle on the arm of her father on January 2, she was radiantly beautiful wearing a gown of her own creation, something she would treasure always.

Beginning in her heart, ending at the altar, her gown, one of a kind.

BRIDE & GROOM SPECIAL



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